

was on his own, as students of Great Academics always are. His first dissertation topic required him to do research at the Bibliothèque National in Paris, where he found the research conditions impossible. Migrating to Oxford, which had resources adequate to another topic in which he was interested, he needed the sponsorship of some Oxford academic, to get permission to exploit the library. He approached Sir Isaiah Berlin, who rebuffed him. Berlin was "taking no more students."

Ronald, who was only half as tall as other people, looked up at the great Sir Isaiah. "Listen," he said. "I'm very smart. I'm very hard-working. And I'm funny." All that was true. Sir Isaiah looked down at the small student in front of him, laughed, and said, "All right."

Ronald was hard to resist. And he knew it. But he was one of the funniest people I've ever known. If Ronald couldn't make you laugh, you really weren't worth the effort. And his wit was always . . . intellectually understood. No vulgarity. No easy laughs. Nothing but fun. But not coy, either.

One person who resisted Ronald was Ayn Rand. As one of the young libertarians (Ronald's friend Murray Rothbard was another) who were invited to her apartment for intellectual discussions, he was cast into oblivion after a difference of opinion about . . . Rachmaninoff. Guests were asked to say who their favorite composers were, and when Rand's turn came, she said "Rachmaninoff," with specific reference to his second piano concerto. "Why?" Ronald asked. "Because he was the most rational," Rand responded. At which Ronald laughed, thinking it must be a joke. He knew that the composer had dedicated that concerto to his psychiatrist—and anyway, rationality had nothing to do with its greatness. But Ronald's laughter resulted in exile, and the loss of friends who were dear to him.

Ronald was a professor in the Department of History at the University of Alberta from 1969 until his retirement in 1998, at which time he immediately moved back to the United States. He detested conformist cultures, and he regarded both his department and, it is fair to say, Canada itself as epitomes of conformism. I once asked him what was wrong with Canada, and he said, "I'll tell you. If you walk into a store in Canada, and you find a customer having a dispute with a sales clerk, 90% of the other customers will immediately side with the clerk. That person is regarded as an official, and therefore the one to obey." He attributed this defect of Canadian culture in large part to the migration to Canada of people opposed to the American Revolution. They set the tone.

Ronald himself was always a revolutionary. He was outraged by any offense to individualism, so much so that he engaged in a ferocious online conflict with other gay libertarians, who regarded the move Braveheart as a tribute to the heroic individual. Ronald pointed out that the move was historically ridiculous and anti-homosexual to boot. He argued, convincingly, that works of art really do need to be judged by their fidelity to historical truth, whenever they recommend themselves as historically true. But the most important thing was Ronald's ability to distinguish pseudo-individualism from the real thing. Nothing could be too real for him. One day, when he and I were discussing various versions of libertarian thought, I asked him where he stood, and he replied (knowing I would not sympathize entirely), "Basically, I agree with Murray"—meaning with Murray Rothbard's very radical libertarianism.

I believe that the antiwar strain of libertarian thought was important for Ronald. I

remember accompanying him, when he visited San Diego, to the Adams Avenue (used) Bookstore (where else would you entertain Ronald Hamowy?). While browsing the stacks, I heard a voice muttering curses, somewhere else in the establishment. I found Ronald in a side room, seated amid stacks of books he was examining, and holding a copy of Barbara Tuchman's *The Guns of August* in his hand. Tuchman justified British intervention in World War I. "Damned British crap," Ronald exclaimed, putting the book down as if he were giving long-overdue punishment to a whole school of thought. Which he was.

His life demonstrated that we libertarians are right: the individual, complex and whole, is the mysterious and unending source of all that is vital in our world.

Ronald's works include *The Scottish Enlightenment and the Theory of Spontaneous Order* (University of Southern Illinois Press, 1987), *Canadian Medicine: A Study in Restricted Entry* (Fraser Institute, 1984), *Dealing with Drugs: Consequences of Government Control* (edited, Lexington Books, 1987), *Government and Public Health in America* (Edward Elgar, 2007), *The Encyclopedia of Libertarianism* (edited, Sage Publications, 2008), and many articles, including one that was especially valuable for Liberty, on the intellectual argument about the American Revolution (Liberty, July 2008, pp. 37–42).

After his retirement, Ronald and his companion Clement Ho moved into a pretty, three-story house in the Washington suburb of Rockville, MD. There Ronald completed his magisterial edition of Hayek's *The Constitution of Liberty* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), which straightens out a great deal that Hayek left, shall we say, unstraightened. Ronald was already in poor health, requiring the use of a cane and, eventually, one of those personal elevators that take you from the first floor of your house to another floor. He had countless near-death experiences—frequently being rushed to the hospital, with only a half hour available to save his life. Yet he bravely undertook a long journey to Greece and Italy, which he enjoyed, and he lived with equivalent bravery from day to day. To see Ronald sitting at his desk, surrounded with computer wires, like a snake-charmer among his clients, watching his computer with one eye and Cary Grant (Turner Classics, again) with the other, was to imagine a cultural world that was, for once, under intelligent control.

Ronald was a combination of supposed opposites. He was a fiery combatant, yet a generous and lenient friend. He was sensitive and nostalgic, often to the point of tears, yet an unflinching judge of the written word. He struggled, year after year, against the uncountable illnesses that racked his body; yet he was always as valiant as a soldier undertaking his first combat mission. But there was no contradiction. His life demonstrated that we libertarians are right: the individual, complex and whole, is the mysterious and unending source of all that is vital in our world.

Ronald is survived by his friend Clement Ho, who was with him every step of the way. Anyone wishing to contact him is invited to do so, at cho@american.edu.

HONORING JED BHUTA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of my Congressional Staff

who have served with me over the past six years while I have been in office. A Member of Congress' most important responsibility is to provide exceptional constituent services and my team is second to none in providing the best assistance to all in our District. My Washington, DC office is also tasked with researching, processing, analyzing, and making recommendations on an infinite number of reports, policies, and legislation. I could not ask for a more talented or dedicated team, and I take great pride in the work that each staff member has done not only on my behalf, but also on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of North Carolina and the United States.

My team has shown a strong sense of dedication to meeting the needs of our constituency. I owe a debt of gratitude to each one of them for the support and friendship which they have shown me while I have served in Congress.

Jed Bhuta joined our Washington, DC team as Legislative Director in 2009. Jed helped to shape my legislative agenda and managed the responsibilities associated with my role as Co-Chair of the Blue Dog Coalition. During Jed's tenure in the office, Congress considered several comprehensive and controversial pieces of legislation. Jed was a valued advisor as we navigated our way through the details of deeply complicated issues. Jed also demonstrated great leadership in the way he helped mentor the rest of the legislative staff, who both respected and trusted his guidance.

Jed should be proud of the service he has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with him and as I retire from office I wish him the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of his efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Jed and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Jed Bhuta for his hard work on behalf of all of western North Carolina and to wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF THE SUPERMAN EXHIBIT IN CLEVELAND HOPKINS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the opening of a new Superman exhibit in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport.

The history of Superman dates back to the 1930s when it was created by Glenville, Ohio natives, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. The Superman exhibit will be a permanent display located in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport's baggage claim area. The exhibit will be highlighted by a Superman statue and the words "Welcome to Cleveland—Where the Legend Began" and "Superman, World's Greatest Super Hero." The display was created by the Siegel & Shuster Society and designed by Studio Graphique.

The Siegel & Shuster Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to commemorating and celebrating the creation of Superman in Cleveland, Ohio by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.